LPG connections in Andhra Pradesh

1434. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for LPG connections at present in each district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of applicants who are proposed to be covered during the next three years, year-wise; and

(c) by when LPG connections would be given in Andhra Pradesh immediately on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) to (c) There are presently approximately 2,39,550 persons on the waiting list for LPG connections in Andhra Pradesh, District-wise figures are not readily available. Release of new connection in the country is made under the annual enrolment programme of the oil industry and is determined by augmentation in the availablity of LPG, bottling capacity, transportation arrangements and other infrastructure.

It cannot be indicated as to the time by which LPG connections can be released on demand in Andhra Pradesh.

Computer inter-connections for telephone exchanges between Delhi, Bombay and Madras

1435. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector Tele-communications Consultants India Limited, is examining a packet switching net-work connecting Delhi, Bombay and Madras for helping computer inter-connection for each exchange between these places;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be put into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Telecommunications has been providing data communication facilities to meet the needs of the business and industry sectors in the form of dedicated data communication circuits. To meet the growing needs, it has become necessary to establish a public data network. Towards this aim, Telecommunications Consultants India Limited is currently installing a packet switched data communication network connecting Delhi, Bombay and Madras to help computer interconnection for data transmission between these cities.

(b) This network will have a limited number of subscribers. It is proposed to monitor the traffic pattern and public reaction before commissioning a larger network covering the entire country. Some more large cities of the country will also be connected on the public data network in due course. The cities which are planned to be taken up in the next phase are Calcutta, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Lucknow, Varanasi, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Nagpur, Bhopal, Baroda, Cochin and Trivandrum.

(c) Bombay, Delhi and Madras will be connected to the Public Data Network facility within the next few months.

Application received for setting up of Industries in Orissa

1436. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications received by the Central Government for setting up industries in Orissa during 1984 and in 1985 so far;

(b) what is the number of applicatons which have been cleared so far; and

(c) what is the number of applications rejected with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) During 1984 and 1985 (upto 25-11-1985), 105 applications were received under the provisions of Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 for grant of Letters of Intent for setting up industries in Orissa. Of these, 39 proposals were approved and letters of intent were issued and 49 applications were rejected. Various techno-economic factors such as, demand and supply, capacity already licensed, export potential, availability of raw materials, locational constraints, viability of the scheme are taken into account while approving or rejecting an industrial licence application. Grounds of rejection vary from case to case and are duly communicated to the applicants as well as to the State Governments concerned.

Industrial units/companies taken over by Government

1437. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) which are the sick industrial companies/units taken over by Government during the last two years;

(b) what steps Government have taken so far to modernise them and get them going into production; and

(c) the details of industrial units still remaining sick and which Government propose to take over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No industrial unit has been taken over by Government under the provisions of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 during last 2 years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the latest data available from the Reserve Bank of India, there were 93,282 (Provisional) sick industrial units as at the end of December 1984. Take over of any industrial undertaking under the provisions of I(D&R) Act is considered in the light of policy guidelines on sick industries issued by the Government in October, 1981. The salient features of these guidelines were furnished on reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 700 on 15-7-1982.

Expansion of telecommunications in rural areas

1438. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what allocations have been made for the expansion of telecommunications in rural areas during Seventh Plan period;

(b) in how many districts, digital networks are proposed to be set up; and

(c) what will be the outlay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) A provision of Rs. 220 crores out of the approved plan outlay of Rs. 4010 crores has been made for the expansion of telecommunications in Rural Areas during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) Integrated Digital Networks are proposed to be set up in 15 secondary areas in the country, each secondary switching area covering approximately a revenue district.

(c) Rs. 110 crores.

Retail outlets for petrol and diesel

1439. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any studies to develop retail outlets for petrol and diesel in Andhra Pradesh in terms of its policy in this regard: and

(b) if so, the number of such retail outlets for Petrol and Diesel set up so far in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The required information is given in the Statement.